

FORWORD

This report provides data on selected characteristics of State assistance programs for supplemental security income (SSI) recipients as of January 1, 1998. The programs are optional state supplementation of Federal SSI payments, state assistance for special needs, and Medicaid. The characteristics selected are those that the Social Security Administration (SSA) has most frequently received inquire about from individuals, public and private organizations and Federal and State agencies.

The report focuses on eligibility provisions and basic levels of assistance for individuals and couples who receive supplementary payments in each State and in the District of Columbia. Data are also presented on Federal-State administrative responsibilities for making payments; State criteria for special need payments; and on Medicaid eligibility.

Four appendices are included in this report. Appendices A and B contain tables which present information by State on: the administration of mandatory and optional supplementation; the method of passalong; participation in the Interim Assistance Reimbursement Program; Medicaid eligibility criteria and determination; medical needy programs for aged, blind, and disabled; and whether the Social Security Administration obtains information on unpaid medical expenses. Appendix C provides data on the number of persons receiving State optional supplementation in each State by living arrangement and eligibility category. Appendix D contains definitions of State living arrangements.

The Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics, Division of SSI Statistics and Analysis prepared this report. Sherry L. Barber, a program analyst of the division, collected and compiled all of the data for this report.

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